

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions in the application:

1. (currently amended) A fastener for connecting a back panel and a shoulder strap of a brassiere, comprising:

a first arm for engagement with the shoulder strap; ~~and~~

a second arm connected to said first arm and at an angle with respect to said first arm, for engagement with a portion of the back panel; and

a wave portion, wherein said wave portion has a flange having a pair of tapered sides; wherein said pair of tapered sides are parallel to said first arm and said second arm,

wherein said fastener creates an angle between said shoulder strap and said back panel and biases said portion of said back panel downward toward a spine of a wearer.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The fastener of claim ~~2~~1, wherein said first arm, said second arm, and said wave portion form a triangular shape.

4 through 6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The fastener of claim ~~[[4]]~~1, wherein said first arm, said second arm, and said wave portion form a heart shape.

8. (original) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said first arm and said second arm are connected together at one end to form a plane.

9. (original) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said first arm has a first end and a second end, and wherein said second arm has a first end and a second end.

10. (original) The fastener of claim 9, wherein said first end of said first arm and said first end of said second arm meet to form a plane.

11. (currently amended) ~~The fastener of claim 1,~~A fastener for connecting a back panel and a shoulder strap of a brassiere, comprising:

a first arm for engagement with the shoulder strap; and

a second arm connected to said first arm and at an angle with respect to said first arm, for engagement with a portion of the back panel,

wherein said fastener creates an angle between said shoulder strap and said back panel and biases said portion of said back panel downward toward a spine of a wearer,

wherein said angle is about 24 to about 45 degrees.

12. (currently amended) The fastener of claim ~~1~~11, wherein said angle is about 27 to about 41 degrees.

13. (original) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said shoulder strap and said back panel are biased toward each other.

14. (original) The fastener of claim 1, wherein said shoulder strap and said back panel are biased away from each other.

15. (currently amended) A fastener for connecting a back panel and a shoulder strap of a brassiere, comprising:

a first arm for engagement with the shoulder strap, said first arm having a first end and a second end;

a second arm for engagement with the back panel, said second arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said second arm being connected to said first end of said first arm to form a plane, said second end of said second arm forming an angle with respect to said second end of said first arm; and

a wave portion connecting said second end of said first arm and said second end of said second arm being disposed between said first arm and said second arm, wherein said wave portion has a flange; wherein said flange has a pair of tapered sides, said tapered sides being parallel to said first arm and said second arm,

wherein said fastener biases a portion of said back panel towards said shoulder strap.

16 through 18 (canceled)

19. (original) The fastener of claim 15, wherein one of said first and second arms is angled with respect to the plane, while the other of the first and second arms is parallel to said plane.

20. (currently amended) ~~The fastener of claim 15,~~ A fastener for connecting a back panel and a shoulder strap of a brassiere, comprising:

a first arm for engagement with the shoulder strap, said first arm having a first end and a second end;

a second arm for engagement with the back panel, said second arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said second arm being connected to said first end of said first arm to form a plane, said second end of said second arm forming an angle with respect to said second end of said first arm; and

a wave portion connecting said second end of said first arm and said second end of said second arm being disposed between said first arm and said second arm,

wherein said fastener biases a portion of said back panel towards said shoulder strap,

wherein said angle is about 24 to about 45 degrees.

21. (new) A fastener for connecting a back panel and a shoulder strap of a brassiere comprising:

a first arm for engagement with the shoulder strap;

a second arm connected to said first arm and at an angle with respect to said first arm, for engagement with a portion of the back panel;

a flange disposed between said first arm and said second arm; and
a pair of arcuate portions, one of said arcuate portions connected to said first arm and said flange and the other of said arcuate portions connected to said second arm and said flange,

wherein said flange is coplanar with said first arm and said second arm and said first arm and one of said pair of arcuate portions and said second arm and the other of said pair of arcuate portions are symmetric about a centerline bisecting said angle and said flange.